



**United States Attorney's Office
Eastern District of Michigan**

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PRESS RELEASE

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NEBRASKA MAN SENTENCED TO 38 YEARS FOR ATTEMPTING TO ARRANGE TO HAVE SEX WITH A CHILD UNDER 12 OVER THE INTERNET AND TRANSPORTING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

Detroit, MI - A Nebraska truck driver was sentenced in federal court in Detroit today for crossing state lines with intent to engage in sexual acts with a child under 12, and distributing, transporting and possessing child pornography, U.S. Attorney Barbara L. McQuade announced today.

Michael L. Schuttpelz, 51 of Souix, Nebraska was sentenced to 38 years in federal prison to be followed by five years of supervised release.

Ms. McQuade was joined in the announcement by Special Agent in Charge Andrew G. Arena, Federal Bureau of Investigation and Sheriff Mark Hackel, Macomb County Sheriff's Department.

Judge Paul D. Borman, who presided over the jury trial at which Schuttpelz was convicted, imposed today's sentence.

The evidence at trial showed that Schuttpelz made a truck delivery to the Detroit area after arranging a meeting with an FBI Agent's undercover persona and her fictitious six-year-old daughter. Schuttpelz was arrested when he arrived in his 18-wheel truck in St. Clair Shores, Michigan, where he was to meet the mother and daughter.

The trial evidence further showed that Schuttpelz developed numerous online relationships, many of which focused on graphic discussions of sexual acts between himself and pre-teen and teenaged girls. Two of Schuttpelz's chat partners were undercover law enforcement officers, one from the FBI and the other from the Macomb Area Computer Enforcement Team. During their discussions, Schuttpelz sent child pornography depicting the acts he had proposed to engage in with the girls and, while online, directed one of the mothers to sexually abuse her child.

Schuttpelz, who was previously convicted of molesting a 13-year-old girl in Iowa in 1994, engaged in sexually graphic online and telephone conversations with the "mother" of the child, and instructed her to sexually molest the child during their conversations.

United States Attorney Barbara McQuade said, "Our prosecution of Mr. Schuttpelz sends a strong message to child predators that they will be aggressively prosecuted. We will do our best to keep the Internet from continuing to be a haven for child molesters."

Special Agent in Charge Andrew G. Arena stated, "Our society has no place for those who prey on children. The FBI and our partners in the law enforcement community are committed to stopping this terrible practice and protecting our children. Through successful initiatives like Innocent Images, we will continue to aggressively pursue child molesters and those who produce/distribute child pornography."

McQuade praised the work of the FBI Agent Jennie Emmons and the Innocent Images Group as well as Sgt. Linda Findlay of the Macomb County Sheriff's Department's MACE Unit, for undercover work to reveal these predators. The Innocent Images group and MACE Unit, McQuade said, consistently demonstrate the highest levels of professionalism and dedication in their aggressive and thorough investigation of these cases.

Assistant United States Attorneys John O'Brien and Kevin Mulcahy prosecuted the case for the United States.